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REPORT  
ON  
PROSTITUTION

IN

SHANGHAI;



DRAWN UP FOR "THE COUNCIL FOR THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY OF SHANGHAI,"

BY

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THE question of the supervision of public women is one which has engaged the attention of former Councils, and which, at present no less than formerly, demands the serious consideration of those whose duty it is to guard the interests, and care for the health of the foreign community of Shanghai. Preliminary  
considerations.

There are at least three good reasons which may be given to shew that the residents in this settlement are specially interested in the discussion of the subject; I advance them as the preliminary considerations which induced me to enter upon a careful investigation of the whole matter.

1.—Shanghai, a busy mercantile port visited by ships from all parts of the world,\* like all similarly situated towns is peculiarly exposed to the invasion of venereal disease, and has attracted a large number of prostitutes within its limits.

2.—The native women who infest the settlement, and who are the chief sources of danger to foreigners, place themselves almost exclusively under the care of Chinese doctors, whose notions with regard to contagion are utterly vague, and whose detection or treatment of disease cannot in the least be relied on.†

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\* The Shanghai Custom Returns for 1869 give the following :—

1823 vessels 915,763 tons, entered the port

1833 vessels 922,205 tons, cleared from the port.

The last census, taken in March 1870 estimates the foreign non-resident floating population at 1,101. This includes the men belonging to vessels of war lying in the river.

† Those women who seek the aid of foreign medical men at the Chinese Hospitals, present, with few exceptions, examples of advanced disease which has resisted nature and the efforts of the native doctors. These patients are generally very irregular in their attendance, seldom or never continuing their visits until a complete cure is effected. There is not at present in Shanghai any Hospital, or any part of a Hospital, set apart for the reception of women suffering from venereal disease. In connection with the General Hospital such an arrangement may perhaps be considered unnecessary, the number of foreign prostitutes being so inconsiderable, but if the creation of a separate Lock Hospital be not contemplated, something should be done to enable the native establishments to supply this want. At present, with scarcely a single exception, native women suffering from venereal disease are treated at the Chinese Hospitals as out-patients; in neither of the two Institutions is there the necessary accommodation for the in-door treatment of such cases; and proper appliances are entirely wanting in both.

3.—The inhabitants of Shanghai, consisting mainly of young unmarried men, are peculiarly liable to suffer from those evils, the limitation or eradication of which it is hoped may be attained by properly directed legislation.\*

The first step towards the discussion of legal enactments, is obviously the acquirement of full information as to the peculiar facts of the case ; and this, as the following pages will sufficiently prove, can only be obtained by carefully conducted investigations made on the spot. Actuated by a desire to furnish the Council with reliable data which may form the basis for future deliberation, and believing that my connection with the Police has afforded me peculiar facilities for making the necessary inquiries, I now offer the following notes on prostitution and its attendant evils, as these at present exist within the limits of the Foreign Settlement. Considering the opportunity a suitable one, I have also included in this report, a short notice of the establishment and subsequent working of a Hospital recently opened in the Honan Road for the reception of native prostitutes suffering from venereal disease.

The subject of prostitution in Shanghai will be best treated of under the following heads, in the order given :—

1. Native houses visited by natives only.
2. Native houses visited by foreigners only.
3. Native houses where the visits of natives and foreigners are equally received.
4. The native mistresses of foreigners.
5. Native washerwomen and needlewomen.
6. Foreign prostitutes.

Before, however, entering upon the consideration of these divisions in detail, I am anxious to direct attention to one or two important points, the discussion of which forms a necessary introduction to that portion of the inquiry relating to the native women. Additional interest attaches to some of these points, from the fact of their distinctively characterising prostitution in China.

The facilities afforded in China for the sale of female children and young women first deserves attention. In section 275 of the penal code,

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\* We possess at present in Shanghai no census return as to the age of the foreign residents, the average may be however stated at twenty-eight. The foreign population resident in the Foreign Settlement north of the Yang-king-pang Creek was reckoned in March 1870 at 1,666,—1,281 men, 218 women and 167 children.



as translated by Sir George Staunton, it is enacted,—“that any person who sells his children or grandchildren against their consent shall be punished with eighty blows;”—to this the translator appends the following note:—“Although it may appear from this restriction that the power of a parent over his child according to this code is much less extensive than that allowed by the laws of the ancient Romans, yet, as the adoption of children, and the purchase of inferior wives and concubines, is a transaction of constant occurrence, and one in which the real parents lawfully may, and usually do, receive a pecuniary consideration, it can scarcely be denied that the sale of children in China is practically allowed.” To this I would add that among respectable natives at the present date, the purchase of children, male or female, from poor parents, is a common and lawful transaction, in which the child is generally the gainer, being kindly treated, and if compelled to engage in house work, still being in most cases regarded as one of the family, and having its future cared for accordingly. The purchase of young women by natives belonging to the respectable classes is also a common occurrence, but always with a view to marriage or domestic service. My inquiries, however, have been chiefly made with reference to the sale of children or young women for the purposes of prostitution; and I find, as the result of recent and careful investigation, that, although such transactions are strictly speaking illegal, they are in reality matters of every day occurrence, constituting a trade which engages considerable capital, and which is never, save under peculiarly aggravated circumstances, interfered with by the native magistrates.

*Children.*—It is important to note the slight value which the natives place upon female children. In China the birth of a girl occasions much disappointment, and is, in many cases, even a source of grief to the parents; among the poorer classes such an event is too often regarded as only entailing additional expense without the hope of future return, daughters being considered in fact as encumbrances of which it is desirable to be rid. The destruction or exposure and desertion of such children are well established facts, and events of not infrequent occurrence in many parts of the Empire; infanticide is a crime committed in China in the case of female infants almost exclusively; with reference to it, Sir George Staunton remarks—“This practice, so revolting to the feelings of humanity, must certainly be acknowledged to exist in China, and even to be in some degree tolerated, &c.”

Brothel-keepers almost constantly invest money in the purchase of female children, bringing them up in their houses with a view to ultimate

gain by their prostitution. In some of the larger establishments I have counted five or six, of from two or three to fifteen years of age, at which last period they are usually considered ready to engage in the regular business of the brothel. The native mistresses of foreigners speculate largely in the same way, girls bought and trained by such women being intended to fill positions similar to those which they themselves hold. The "amahs" who wait upon the wives and families of resident foreigners, when possessed of sufficient capital, engage occasionally in this traffic, professing however to make their purchases in the hope of obtaining the profits arising from a good marriage; the real destination of some of these children is a subject upon which I confess I have my doubts, and it is, at all events, an affair of which the law, so far as I can learn, takes no cognizance whatever.

The sums paid for children vary according to their age, their appearance, and the state of the market. A healthy infant of a year old may be generally obtained for one or two dollars; at ten or eleven years of age from twenty to fifty dollars are sums commonly paid by the brothel-keepers for strong good-looking children. They are generally sold by parents or relations of bad character, who, not possessing sufficient means for their support, and being only anxious to secure the highest price obtainable, are indifferent as to their ultimate destination; occasionally they are stolen or decoyed away (kidnapped) from their friends; not unfrequently their mothers are themselves prostitutes, and their homes have been from the first in the brothels. Children are now and again sold to defray the funeral expenses of a parent; two or three such cases in connection with the brothels have recently come under the notice of the superintendent of police. I cannot leave this part of the subject without noticing the fact, that a few at least of the children at present apparently destined, through some of the ways enumerated, to swell the ranks of the native prostitutes, are of foreign parentage by the fathers' side.

*Young Women.*—By the sale, purchase, and farming of young women, the brothel-keepers and their agents profit largely. The average price of a good-looking girl of from sixteen to twenty may be stated at two hundred dollars, but considerably larger sums are paid for those who, in addition to youth and personal attractions, are also able to sing.

Proprietors of brothels are by no means constantly the owners of the girls seen in their houses. One common and rather complicated arrangement entered into between the holders of such property and the brothel-



keepers, is for the former to borrow from the latter a sum of money equal to half the value of the young woman, who then becomes an inmate of the brothel. Her earnings are divided between the two contracting parties at the end of each month, and the interest on the money borrowed, at the rate of four per cent. per month, is paid by the owner to the brothel-keeper. Thus, supposing the young woman to be valued at two hundred dollars, and to be capable of earning twenty dollars a month, one hundred dollars will be borrowed by the proprietor, who appears under the title of "mother" in the transaction. At the end of the month the girl's gains are divided between the brothel-keeper and the so-called "mother," who, receiving as her share ten dollars, returns four, as interest on the borrowed money. Under this arrangement the girl herself receives nothing from the keeper of the house save her board. Clothes, &c. are provided by the "mother" who claims all the presents which the girl may obtain. In one of the Shanghai houses, containing fifteen girls, fourteen are maintained upon this complicated footing.

The sale of wives by their husbands, and of daughters and daughters-in-law by their mothers and mothers-in-law, are transactions of which the occurrence cannot be denied. In a case which recently came before the native magistrate of the Mixed Court, a husband was proved to have consigned his wife to a brothel-keeper for the sum of forty-three dollars retaining a certain interest in her; and at the end of fifteen months, for a further sum of one hundred dollars, to have given up all claim to her.

Foreigners occasionally purchase their native mistresses from the brothel-keepers or other agents, paying sums varying from three to seven hundred dollars; instances of foreigners selling these women again are, I believe unknown.

It is not an uncommon thing for a girl who has obtained her freedom to sell herself to the proprietor of a brothel, borrowing frequently a sum of money, and paying interest on the same out of what she is able to earn in the house. Such arrangements are usually made for a limited term of years, and generally arise out of some pressure to which the girl has been subjected on account of gambling debts. In one case, as to which I am specially informed, the girl disposed of herself for one year only, receiving from the brothel proprietor no less than five hundred dollars; I need scarcely add that very few can obtain such large sums.

When a brothel-keeper falls in debt or gives up business, she sells the girls belonging to her house as a matter of course, and readily finds purchasers; nor has she any difficulty in disposing of those with whom she may

at any time wish to part. During the early part of 1869 a Cantonese, still residing in the settlement, bought up more than a hundred young girls, whom he shipped to San Francisco, consigning them to a regular agent there, for subsequent disposal as concubines or wives ; his trade, however, was put a stop to by an ordinance of the San Francisco authorities, forbidding the importation of such women.

Regularly attested bills of sale which correspond pretty closely with the documents executed when the legitimate objects of marriage or domestic service are alone contemplated, are drawn up by the contracting parties in all these transactions. The price paid is usually stated in the body of these deeds, and when this is the case the comparatively large sums given by the brothel proprietors and their agents, sufficiently indicate the purpose of the sale. The following is a form commonly adopted in such documents at Canton ; it is the translation of one recently obtained for me by the police, from the proprietor of a native brothel in Shanghai supported exclusively by foreign visitors.

“I, ‘Wang Kuang Chun,’ have a daughter born to myself who is called ‘Ta Mé,’ she is just sixteen years old, born on the 17th day of the 5th month at 8 A.M. Now in consequence of being unable to find a means of subsistence I and my wife have agreed to dispose of her to any person, whether residing in the neighbourhood or at a distance, whether living on the water or the land. In pursuance of this intention, we first notified to her relations, that she was for sale and they not desiring to retain her, we next got a go-between, ‘Liang Ge An,’ who introduced us to a purchaser, who was satisfied with her, and who is accordingly willing to take her entirely off our hands ; the terms to be whatever we may demand. The price is now fixed at two hundred and twenty perfect, foreign faced (i. e. Mexican), dollars, each at seventy-three tael cents established rate. All three having agreed to this arrangement, and the two families having given their consent, this deed has been drawn up with the go-between and the bargain is now arranged. This sale is a *bonâ fide* transaction, the girl not having been kidnapped nor forced against her will, nor given for debt. She is guaranteed a virgin, never betrothed. Should any difficulties as to her history arise, the seller will dispose of them without detriment to the purchaser. The girl is further warranted free from any physical or mental defect, if this is found not to be the case the purchase money will be refunded. The sale being effected she can be taken away, her name changed, and when she is grown up she shall abide by the will of the purchaser who may make use of her for any purpose he pleases, whether the same be respectable or otherwise. In case of disobedience she may be disposed of without hindrance. Having by this consignment yielded up all interest in her, intercourse between her and her relations will cease for ever, and she shall not be redeemed. In case of death, which is mutually to be regarded as the order of heaven, no complaints are to be preferred.

To the above effect this document is given in proof.

Signed .....



In Shanghai the form of these deeds differs but slightly from the specimen just given. In one which I obtained from the proprietor of a brothel frequented solely by natives, the object of the sale is stated in the words 'slave or concubine,' the price of the girl is fixed at three hundred dollars, and a go-between is mentioned as introducing the purchaser and arranging the sale.

In this last document, additional protection is given to the purchaser by a bond signed by two female securities ; the form of their agreement is as follows :—

"We.....and.....on account of.....who has sold her daughter to..... to be held in fee simple as a servant, and who has received the full price paid down, do hereby engage to secure the said.....against any claims or difficulty which may arise on her account, and in case of her committing theft or running away to adjust the matter. In witness whereof we give this bond with our names subscribed."

It must not however be supposed that the brothel keepers are invariably left in undisturbed possession of their purchases. There are to be found in Shanghai men, belonging I presume to the fraternity of thieves, who after having apparently executed the *bona fide* sale of a young woman, despatch an accomplice in the course of a few days to claim relationship with her ; the case comes up before the Court, the object of the purchase is shewn, and judgment is invariably given against the brothel-keeper, the girl being declared free to return to her friends. A similar plan is occasionally adopted by men who desire to obtain any of these women for wives, not being however prepared to pay the large sums demanded by their owners. Cases of this kind would be even more common than they are, were it not for the caution which purchasers exercise in ascertaining the true character of the parties from whom they buy, and from the protection which the brothel-keepers, who pay their "squeezes" regularly, receive from the runners of the Yamên.

The social position of women in China being in almost every respect so totally unlike that occupied by females in western countries, it is impossible to institute any general comparison between the loss of caste which the Chinese prostitute suffers and that experienced by the European who adopts a similar mode of life. Among the Chinese marriage with such women is not considered at all disgraceful, save by the very exceptionally moral, or by men of high rank. A wealthy Chinaman occasionally chooses his second wife from this class, and these women are often eagerly sought after for first wives by men of inferior social position. When the Taotai in November of last year, issued a proclamation commanding the closing of all

Social position  
of native prostitutes.

the brothels in the settlement, he announced that one month would be allowed for the parties concerned to seek suitable *marriage alliances*, &c., &c. There are not wanting instances at the present date of Mandarins selecting such women for wives although by doing so they risk loss of rank, a special law forbidding government officers to form such connections. The sums paid for these transfers are often very large; Tls. 8,000 (£2,500) was I am informed, recently given by a government official in Soochow for a woman belonging to one of the brothels in Shanghai; and I hear that there is at present residing in the settlement a native, belonging to the highest literary grade, who, choosing a prostitute for his first wife, paid Tls. 7,000 (£2,000) to obtain possession of her. In two cases which have recently come under the notice of the police superintendant, \$1500 and \$2000 were the sums demanded by the brothel proprietors from the intending purchasers. Many rich Chinamen regard the payments of these large sums as public proofs of their superior wealth, and will shew wives so obtained with pride, boasting of the money they have cost. It is right to state that male children born of these marriages, if recognized, would not be permitted to appear at the competitive examinations, and hence are excluded from office; indeed so strictly does the law provide for such occurrences that each candidate, I am informed, is required to make a statement and produce a security, vouching that for three previous generations his family has not been contaminated in this way. Judging from the slight influence which law appears to exercise over custom in everything else connected with the subject under discussion, I should be surprised to learn that such a rule is at all strictly observed.

Married men are frequently to be seen in the society of prostitutes at places of public resort or amusement as theatres &c., and without apparently much blame attaching to their conduct. Such women are also frequently invited to attend private parties of gentlemen to provide music for the entertainment of the guests, and this without fear of giving offence to any.\* It might be supposed that the native women who seek the society of foreigners chiefly or exclusively would suffer specially in the estimation of their countrymen; this does not however appear to be the case, the prospects of marriage for such being more seriously affected by their large feet, than by any fact connected with their lives as prostitutes.

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\* I refer here to the 'singing girls' as they are termed by the foreign police. These are attached to the brothels, ranking higher than the ordinary inmates of the house. They, like female actors, are all really if not professedly prostitutes. I have not thought it necessary to give them any separate description.



It is necessary to explain the view which is taken of prostitution by the native authorities. According to the penal code, criminal intercourse with an unmarried woman is an offence to be punished with eighty blows; persons aiding and abetting and conniving at the meeting of parties guilty of such crimes are to suffer the punishment next in degree. In the Shanghai Mixed Court the existence of brothels, &c., is, as far as possible, officially ignored by the native magistrate. Cases now and again occur in which the proprietor of one attempts to recover a debt incurred by a visitor to the house, but such applications are never attended with success. The sale or purchase of a female for the purpose of prostitution is considered illegal; in such a transaction, the real nature of which was fairly represented, the parties engaged would escape punishment, but any money which had changed hands would probably be confiscated. As already noticed the claim of relationship preferred in favour of a prostitute will almost invariably be allowed by the court, and any deed of sale consigning the women to a brothel-keeper annulled. After the facts already stated, and in view of those yet to be brought forward, it seems scarcely necessary to draw attention to the utter absurdity of supposing that any of these precepts or observances are of the slightest practical value in checking the evils which they profess to combat. The chief magistrate depends for information relative to such matters upon the lesser officers of the Yamên, and these are in the pay of the brothel keepers; what more need be said to shew that practically, here as elsewhere in China, justice miscarries through the connivance of those who are entrusted with its administration.

View of prostitution taken by the native authorities.

The Foreign Settlement north of the Yang-king-pang Creek contains within its limits 493 native brothels of all kinds, and the number of native prostitutes inhabiting them is estimated by the police at 1,632.

Distribution of native brothels in the foreign settlement north of the Yang-king-pang Creek.

The following table shews the distribution of these native Houses, with that of the women which they contain.

	A.—HOUSES.			B.—WOMEN.		
	English Settlement.	Hongkew.	Total.	English Settlement.	Hongkew.	Total.
1.—Houses frequented by natives .....	382	19	401	1,352	37	1,389
2.—Houses frequented by foreigners .....	27	...	27	92	...	92
3.—Houses frequented by natives and foreigners indiscriminately .....	...	35	35	...	131	131
Total.....	409	54	463	1,444	168	1,612



the French  
cession.

Dr. Massais, in a report addressed to the French Municipal Council of 1869, estimates the total number of brothels in the French Concession at about 250 and the total number of prostitutes at about 2600. Of these houses he states that only 24 are known to be visited by foreigners ; they contain 90 women : 54 Cantonese with 39 from Shanghai, Ningpo, and Foochow. I am informed that the brothels on the French side are largely frequented by the sailors who visit the port.

It will be seen from the tabular statement given above, that the Houses frequented by natives only, are largely in excess of those visited by foreigners, and this is very important, for, as will be presently shewn, the women living in the former can in no way affect the health of the foreign community, and need therefore form no item in the calculations of any supervision scheme which has for its object the protection of foreigners only. Native brothels are principally, but by no means entirely confined to the Chinese quarters, where they are to be found aggregated in streets and lanes. One street contains no fewer than ninety five of various kinds, but where houses are so numerous they are small, and seldom contain more than two or three women. The rents paid by the proprietors vary considerably, the average for the smaller houses may be stated at \$4 a month ; of the larger establishments pointed out to me, one was said to pay as much as Tls. 35, another Tls. 22 and another Tls. 10 a month, rents which, I am informed, are by no means exceptional, being indeed no higher than those paid by respectable shopkeepers or other native residents for similar accommodation. The affairs of these brothels are conducted by women, who have, in almost every case, themselves begun life as prostitutes, a life for which age has rendered them unfit, or of which the possession of money has made them independent ; they are frequently, but by no means constantly, the proprietors of the establishments over which they preside.

Following the order already indicated, I now come to consider :—

1. *Houses where the visits of natives only are received.*—These are confined almost entirely to the Chinese quarters properly so called, where the smaller and more numerous are distinguished at night by a lamp suspended from an upper window above the door, a sign which, when the house is full, is drawn up and extinguished. Save under the guidance of a Chinaman or native policeman well known to the proprietors, it would be difficult for a foreigner to see much of their interior, his entry would excite no little alarm, and might even meet with considerable opposition. According to the rate charged for admission, purely native brothels may be divided into a first

ailed des-  
tion of native  
hels, &c.

and second class ; first class houses being, among other things, distinguished by their larger size and the greater number of their inmates. The upper flat of each, and in the larger establishments the lower flat also, is divided into small rooms, the number of which corresponds to the number of the young women living on the premises. The privacy of these rooms is secured simply by the curtain door commonly seen in native houses.

In all purely native brothels prostitution and the consumption of opium go hand in hand. In the better class houses, opium is furnished without any distinct charge, but in the second class, or poorer houses, it is paid for separately, and a considerable profit made by its sale. At present opium costs thirty *cash* for five *fun* (half a drachm) in the regular opium shops, while a hundred *cash* is charged in the brothels for the same quantity. A tray on which rests the pipe, lamp, and necessary apparatus, with a small pot of the drug, is part of the furniture of every room, while to this is added, in houses belonging to the better class, fruit, tea, roast melon seeds and native tobacco. The women themselves do not as a rule smoke opium, but there are many exceptions. Music is added to the attractions of brothels belonging to the better class, the women of the house being themselves generally the performers, the instrument employed is a species of banjo, used as an accompaniment to the voice.

Those who frequent the first class houses are charged a nominal rate of three dollars for each visit, but this does not in the least degree represent the sums spent nightly in such places. In the poorer houses a dollar is the average entrance money demanded, opium, as already stated being an extra expense, for those using the drug. Such payments are not made on each occasion by the regular visitors, but the debts, being entered in books kept by the proprietors, are collected monthly, yearly, or half-yearly, as may be previously agreed upon. The women frequently receive large sums of money from their wealthier admirers, the disposition of such presents varying according to the position of the receiver in the house. If bought by the brothel-keeper, the girl hands over all gratuities to her, receiving, however, generally a certain return in the shape of clothes or ornaments for the decoration of her person ; if merely hired, any presents which she may receive are considered the property of those to whom she really belongs, the brothel-keeper having no interest in them whatever. The richer Chinese merchants frequently entertain their friends to dinner in the better class houses ; and from this custom the proprietors derive no inconsiderable profit, an average charge for such entertainments being at the rate of twelve to fourteen dollars a head. Should a Chinaman seated in the theatre desire the society of any



of these women, he is provided with a slip of pink paper, upon which is already printed a formal invitation requiring only the addition of his own and the girl's name and address; packets of these invitation papers are to be seen lying on the money-taker's table in every theatre. Should the invitation be accepted, a charge of three dollars is made, and it is understood that the girl will pass a short time at the theatre with her entertainer, seated at his table and seeing the performance in his company. As some of these women conclude several such engagements during the same evening, their owners profit considerably by this custom.

Prostitutes belonging to the houses exclusively visited by natives have all, with a few exceptions to be presently noticed, the small feet so highly esteemed as a female beauty. There is nothing essentially peculiar in the dress which they wear. A more than common use of bright colours and embroidery, with an unusually elaborate decoration of the hair, may be regarded as distinguishing features in their appearance; but I think foreigners would occasionally have difficulty in distinguishing them from the wives and daughters of rich merchants and shopkeepers. Painting and powdering the face and staining the lips are customs not confined in China to prostitutes. Each has an attendant "amah" who depends for her wages upon the liberality of those visiting her mistress. Their amusements are few, limited to games of chance with cards or dominoes, and the music to which reference has already been made. In idly watching the passers by from the windows and doors of their houses, in smoking, eating, sleeping and tea drinking they contrive to pass the day, and being utterly degraded, mentally and bodily, appear tolerably contented with their lot in life. These last remarks have a general application to all the native prostitutes in Shanghai.

Certain houses are set apart for the use of the Cantonese living in the settlement. In the English division there are seven such places, all to be found within a small area of ground lying to the north of the Nankin Road; there are a few more, some three or four, in Hongkew. Their internal arrangements so precisely resemble those of the houses just described, that it is scarcely necessary to give them any separate notice. The opium pipe is to be seen in every room with the usual accompaniments of tea and native tobacco. The best of these Cantonese establishments compare unfavorably in point of cleanliness with the better class Shanghai houses. This may be perhaps explained by the fact that the women inhabiting them belong socially to a lower class. Very few possess the



small feet so universally seen in the regular Shanghai brothels. One of the principal of these Canton houses contains twelve girls, and the proprietor pays a rent of about Tls. 22 a month. There are four children in this house, of ages varying from eight to eleven, they are the property of the brothel-keeper, having according to her own statement, cost some thirty or forty dollars each. Two young women, who, besides a fair share of good looks, play and sing well, she values at five hundred dollars each. They are, she says, able occasionally to earn twelve or fourteen dollars a night in attending dinners given by wealthy natives, for the purpose of entertaining the company with music.

In view of legislation, it is important to note that none of the women belonging to the purely native brothels ever visit the houses of foreigners, and therefore can in no way affect the health of the foreign community.

2. *Houses where the visits of foreigners only are received.*—These are confined to the English Settlement. In Hongkew, with the exception of the three or four Canton brothels just referred to, all belong to the mixed class, where the visits of natives and foreigners are equally welcomed. Good examples of these houses may be seen on the banks of the Yang-king-pang creek, or in the Keangse Road near its northern extremity. The points which chiefly distinguish the interior of such places from the brothels exclusively frequented by natives, are, the air of comparative cleanliness which the house presents, the half foreign character of the furniture which the rooms contain, the almost constant presence of water, soap and towels; last, though not least, the absence of the opium pipe and its accessories. The women are obtained principally but not solely from Canton. Among other points of dress, &c., they may be readily distinguished by the half foreign method which they adopt of dressing the hair in a flat roll over the back of the head, secured by variously shaped and ornamented metal combs. Their feet not having been subjected to any cramping process, they are free to take what walking exercise they please, and may be seen at all hours in the streets of the settlement. They are obtained in the various ways already so fully described, a few having begun life in Shanghai as the mistresses of foreign residents, and many looking forward to the obtaining of such a position as the most fortunate event which could happen to them. Socially they belong to a lower class than the women found in the purely native brothels. The price of admission to these places varies from one to two

dollars. The visits of common Sailors appear to be discouraged by the women, and these men consequently resort almost exclusively to the houses belonging to the still unnoticed mixed class.\* It is certain however that natives, as Cantonese house boys, &c., are frequent visitors in such places, though this is of course emphatically denied by the proprietors.

3. *Houses where the visits of natives and foreigners are equally received.* These are the most disreputable of all the brothels in the settlement, and contain without exception the most degraded specimens of the native prostitute. No Chinaman of any pretension to respectability visits such houses, and yet, I regret to say, it is to these dens the sailors belonging to our naval and mercantile services principally resort. They are almost entirely confined to Hongkew, where they form narrow streets and lanes leading from, or running parallel to, the main road. They are all alike dark, dirty and unfurnished, the worst in every way being those where Malays, negroes, &c. are the principal visitors. The opium smoker's tray is to be found frequently, but not invariably, in the rooms, its presence or absence depending upon the nationality of those who chiefly visit the house. Means of ablution are very rarely to be seen in these houses.

4. *Native mistresses of Foreign residents.*—Such women exist in considerable numbers in Shanghai. They are to be found under two conditions, either as residing in the same houses with their masters, or as maintained in separate establishments, this last being the more common arrangement. As elsewhere stated, they are occasionally bought by foreigners from the brothel-keepers or other agents, sums varying from three hundred to four hundred dollars being paid by the purchaser, who receives in exchange the usual formally drawn up bill of sale. If not purchased directly, such women are hired, receiving from their temporary owners an average sum of thirty dollars a month, out of which ten dollars are handed over by them to the agents to whom they really belong. Canton and Soochow are the towns from which they are principally obtained, the greater number being Cantonese. Save from the more expensive character of their dress, or from the possession of more valuable ornaments, as gold bangles &c., these women can scarcely be distinguished from the inmates of the brothels frequented by for-

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\* I have already referred to the brothels on the French Concession as being largely frequented by sailors, my information does not at present extend further as to the character of these places.



eigners. Some among them may prove obstacles to the efficient working of supervision schemes, for it is certain that many of those who are maintained by their masters in separate establishments, are little better than the regular prostitutes; and, while constituting an undoubted source of danger to the community, it is obvious that, if required to appear before a medical inspector, they would refuse, stating their position, and, if necessary, claiming the protection of their foreign owners. I suppose the intimate relations in which these women stand to foreigners may to some extent improve their mentally degraded condition—the peculiar position they occupy most certainly does not lower it—but I have myself seen little to justify the conclusion that such improvement is often well marked. They belong, with very few exceptions, to the lower classes of the natives, and while many are notoriously unfaithful, a few only appear to feel real affection for their foreign masters. Men who have purchased these women will frequently free them by destroying the bills of sale which prove the consignment, but it is a matter of police experience that the conduct of such is by no means improved by their altered condition.

5. *Native washerwomen and needlewomen.* As the heading implies, these women profess to follow respectable occupations. Inasmuch, however, as very many are prostitutes of a most dangerous kind, who make their professed employments altogether secondary considerations, or use them only as a means to facilitate their entrance into ships on the river, their description must be included in this report.

Washerwomen and needlewomen who work in the Settlement are, with few exceptions, respectable women; those who follow similar occupations among the foreign ships on the river are, with as few exceptions, prostitutes. It is difficult to estimate exactly the number of these last. They live in the very poorest of the native houses; in former days when house-rent was high they inhabited boats moored by the river banks or at the sides of the creeks. Not unfrequently they are attached to, but do not reside in, the lowest class of the “mixed” brothels, being employed, under their assumed designations, to visit the ships and entice foreign sailors to go to these houses when they come on shore. There is nothing remarkable in their appearance. Those who seek, or profess to seek, employment in clothes mending may be distinguished by the threaded needle stuck in the hair, or by the basket which they carry filled with the thread, cloth, &c., necessary for their work. Such as are attached to brothels approach in



dress more nearly to the other inmates of these places, and their real character can seldom be mistaken.

Medical supervision would, in the case of these women, be a work attended with difficulty, embarrassed by their profession of respectable occupation, the undoubted respectability of many of their number, and the wandering life which the majority lead. It must, however, be acknowledged that they are formidable sources of danger to the sailors who visit Shanghai.

6. *Foreign prostitutes.*—These are few in number, some twelve or thirteen at present, distributed in four or five different houses in the English Settlement. Their price will, I presume, limit the number of their visitors to those in possession of considerable means. They live in well furnished houses and deny themselves few of the luxuries which the place affords. Their habits of personal cleanliness, and the readiness with which they at all times avail themselves of foreign medical skill, render them less liable than the native women to contract or spread disease.

Since it is desirable that the members of the Council be fully informed as to the steps already taken by their predecessors in office, for the abatement of the evils originating in the brothels, I now beg to submit the following brief account of a dispensary or rather hospital, recently established in the Honan Road for the reception of native prostitutes suffering from venereal disease.

On the 26th of August, 1869, Mr. Penfold, the police superintendant, submitted to me a scheme which appeared likely to be at least useful in preparing the way for more effective legislation ; with some trifling alteration in detail, it was approved of by the members of the Council. Mr. Penfold recommended the establishment of a hospital to be termed a "Home," placed under the superintendence of the municipal medical officer, to which all native prostitutes suffering from venereal disease should be sent by a native doctor, who, at a salary of thirty dollars a month, should be engaged to visit the houses and inspect the inmates. Of course little reliance could be placed upon such inspection, but it was hoped that cases of severe or obvious disease at least, might in this way be weeded out, and that by the successful treatment of such, the confidence of the women themselves might be gained. Mr. Penfold's scheme further provided for the prosecution of any brothel-keeper found harbouring any girl suffering from venereal disease. The women and the brothel proprietors expressed perfect

willingness to submit to such regulations, and neither the Council nor the general public, so far as I could learn, were prepared to initiate more extended measures.

The first case admitted to the "Home" was brought by the Chinese inspector from one of the low class houses in Hongkew. This unfortunate woman was suffering from some of the worst effects of venereal disease, extensive and extending ulceration of the soft palate and nasal cartilages, attended with general glandular enlargements and excessive emaciation. She had been given up by the native doctors, who told her she must die within a month, in spite of which she was, according to her own account, compelled by the mistress of the house in which she lived to receive the visits of foreign sailors. I have no reason to doubt her story, and fear that not a few similar abominations are perpetrated among the uncared for women who crowd together in the filthy native houses which disgrace so many of the back streets in the foreign settlement. She remained in the "Home" for a period of four months, at the end of which time she was discharged in good health, and free from any active manifestation of disease. Much was hoped from the success attending the treatment of this severe case, but I regret to state, that these expectations have not been realized. Our Chinese doctors, for we have tried three in succession, have failed to report the number of cases which we might have reasonably expected even them to discover. In spite of this I cannot by any means regard these efforts as thrown away. We have shewn to the women in some small degree the powerfully remedial effect of foreign treatment, and we have accustomed them to the idea of medical supervision and police control. Applications for admission have been so few during the past months and the work has been conducted with so much difficulty owing to the absence of proper appliances, that I should recommend the closing of this Institution, were it not that we have at present within its walls a patient whose case will not admit of her abrupt dismissal.\*

In Shanghai, where so few medical men record their observations, it is impossible to collect much evidence as to the influence which any one class of diseases exerts on the health of the community. My own experience in practice in the settlement leads me to the conclusion that venereal disease is neither excessively nor unusually prevalent among the resident for-

Venereal disease  
in Shanghai.

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\* The above was written in the month of September, the "Home" has since been closed.



eigners.\* That these complaints directly and indirectly cause a good deal of that constitutional impairment popularly attributed to climate I am well aware, but when I consider the uncared for state and filthy habits of the native women, and the peculiar condition of the resident foreign population as to age, sex, &c., I must confess to a feeling of surprise that the injurious effects of these diseases are not more widely spread than they appear to be. I have seen nothing as yet to lead me to the conclusion that syphilis bears an undue proportion in Shanghai to other slighter forms of venereal disease. It is my impression that a large number of the cases of venereal disease treated in Shanghai are imported, and I regard Japan as the source from which these are chiefly derived. This individual expression of opinion is given for what it is worth; I am fully aware that it is opposed to popular belief, and possibly also to the conclusions arrived at by other medical practitioners whose experience in Shanghai has exceeded my own.

It is commonly stated by the Chinese, and by the native doctors, that venereal diseases are more common in Shanghai during the summer and autumn months; while my own observation scarcely confirms this, it is not difficult to conceive an increase in such affections following the arrival of so many foreign ships as yearly make their appearance in the river in the end of May or beginning of June, to await the opening of the Tea market. The eye is thought to be more frequently the seat of specific inflammation in Shanghai than elsewhere, and I think there is some foundation for this belief.

In prosecuting this inquiry, the Reports of the General Hospital first deserve attention. This Hospital was originally founded to meet the requirements of the foreign sailors who visit the port, and at the present date, nearly all the patients treated within its walls are derived from the ships on the river. There is little or no out-door practice in connection with this Institution, and the cases recorded have all been admitted to the wards. Taking then for granted that these returns deal only with the severer forms of disease derived principally from the shipping, we find:—

In 1865, 95 cases of venereal diseases admitted:—under the heads of primary, secondary, and tertiary Syphilis 76 cases; to these must be added 14 cases of Gonorrhoea, 4 cases of Orchitis, and one case of Chronic Syphilitic Iritis.

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\* The number of native women in the position of mistresses, indicates, no doubt, the principal cause of this immunity. This statement does not apply to the foreign police force, in which venereal affections have been unusually prevalent during the past year.



In 1866, 56 cases of venereal disease:—57 cases referred to as cases of Syphilis, but including apparently Gonorrhoea, Orchitis, and 5 cases of stricture; to these I have added 4 cases of Syphilitic Iritis, subtracting the 4 cases of stricture as doubtful.

In 1867, 52 cases:—57 cases referred to as cases of Syphilis, but including apparently Gonorrhoea, Orchitis, and 5 cases of stricture, with 2 of Urinary Fistula; to these I have added 2 cases of Syphilitic Iritis, subtracting as doubtful the 5 cases of stricture and 2 of Urinary Fistula.

In 1868, 84 cases:—all referred to as cases of Syphilis, primary and secondary.

In 1869, 98 cases:—reported as cases of venereal disease.

In 1870, 69 cases:—referred to as cases of Syphilis and Gonorrhoea.

These records, extending over a period of six years, shew that on the whole the number of admissions for venereal disease have been in excess of those enumerated under any other special heading. Cases of Dysentery and Fever come next in point of frequency, these being the complaints of most common occurrence among foreigners generally in Shanghai. In the following table the number of cases noted under the three designations are contrasted; 'Fever' being used as a general term to include all the various types of intermittent, remittent, and continued fevers.

YEAR.	VENEREAL DISEASE.	F EVER.	DYSEN- TERY.
1865 .....	95	78	138
1866 .....	56	33	72
1867 .....	52	80	49
1868 .....	84	84	61
1869 .....	98	82	31
1870 .....	69	55	42
In six years....	454	412	393

From 1865 to 1870 inclusive, 2,791 patients have been treated for various complaints in the wards of the General Hospital; among these therefore cases of venereal disease occur in the proportion of about 16 in every hundred; it must, however, be borne in mind, that these diseases in almost every part of the world constitute a large proportion of the cases treated in Hospitals.

The somewhat unsatisfactory arrangement adopted in several of these reports permits of a stronger case being made out against venereal disease, but of this I have taken no advantage. Many cases of imported disease are treated in the General Hospital, and in estimating the just value of its statistics, this ought not to be forgotten.

Dr. Coghill, in a report on the health of the Police force dated March 1864, says: "The prevailing diseases have been in the order of their enumeration, venereal disorders, intermittent fevers," &c., &c., and he adds in conclusion:—"Reference may again be permitted to the extent to which the effective strength of the Police force is reduced by the prevalence of syphilitic and allied affections." In subsequent reports, Dr. Coghill, however, announces a marked improvement in this respect. My own experience as surgeon to the Police during the past two years, inclines me to regard venereal disease as causing a very large proportion of the sickness among the men. During the past year of 1870, in a force averaging daily 37 men—I speak of course only of the foreign constabulary,—541 days of service have been lost through sickness or injury; of these, 205 have been on account of venereal disease. Out of 98, separate entries \* on the daily sick lists, 23 are due to venereal disease; but this by no means represents the number of such cases occurring throughout the year as a considerable number of slighter affections or manifestations, the nature of which did not incapacitate for duty, were treated without being entered in these returns. Two men were invalided and sent home in the beginning of 1870 for syphilis. 45 days of service have already been lost during the first two months of the present year, and of these, 36 are in consequence of venereal affections occurring in four individuals.

The 'Sailor's Home' is an Institution established in Shanghai for the reception of discharged seamen, of whom it contains a daily average of about 35. Dr. Sibbald, who attends to the medical and surgical requirements of these men, tells me, that he believes fully two-thirds of the cases for which he is called to prescribe are cases of venereal disease. He finds it necessary to visit the 'Home' about twice a week on an average. He does not think more than half a dozen cases of this disease have been sent from this Institu-

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\* By 'separate entries,' I do not mean cases occurring in different individuals, but distinct appearances, it may be of the same man, upon the daily returns. Eight individuals appear in my books as affected with venereal disease; of these six are cases of syphilis, one man having contracted this disease before coming to Shanghai.



tion to the General Hospital during the whole term of his appointment, a period of about five years; these cases do therefore not appear to any extent in the returns of the General Hospital.

In 1862, when European troops occupied Shanghai, Tientsin and Taku, Army Health Reports. 234.2 was the annual ratio per 1,000 men given in the Army Report for Enthetic—venereal—disease in Shanghai; during the same year, these complaints are stated as yielding in Southern China an annual ratio per 1,000 men of 437.8. No special remarks are made in the Report for 1862 as to venereal disease in China, but of the forces quartered in Great Britain it is said:—"Enthetic diseases continue to hold a very prominent place as causes of insufficiency in the army, the admissions ranging between 285 per 1,000 in Depôt Battalions, and 377 per 1,000 in the Sea-port towns." In the British Army Report for 1863, 221.1 is the annual ratio per 1,000 men given for venereal diseases in Shanghai and Taku; numbers which contrast with 229.6 the ratio given for Southern China, and with 306.8 the ratio given for the forces quartered at the various stations in Great Britain.

The testimony of the naval surgeons stationed at different times at Shanghai is valuable. From this source up to the present date, the information which I have been able to collect on the spot, is limited to the following:— Testimony of naval surgeons during 1870.

Dr. Reid, of H. M. S. *Dwarf*, informs me, that in a crew of 71, officers and men included, he only encountered 5 cases of venereal disease while stationed at Shanghai during the past year of 1870, between the 15th of March and 20th of June—97 days. Of these, 3 were cases of gonorrhoea and 2 cases of primary venereal ulcer; one of these last was followed by slight constitutional symptoms, and one manifested a tendency to take on phagedenic action, its exact character being undetermined up to the date of Dr. Reid's communication with me.

Dr. Roche, of H. M. S. *Zebra*, states in answer to my inquiry, that in a crew of 177, officers and men included, he was only called to treat 13 cases of venereal disease while stationed at Shanghai during the past year of 1870, between the 4th of July and 1st of November 1870, a period of 120 days. Of these, 8 were cases of simple sores in which there was no reason to fear constitutional infection, 3 were cases of Gonorrhoea, one was a case of true Syphilis, and one a case in which Gonorrhoea and a sloughing sore were both present.

Dr. Robinson, of U. S. S. *Monocacy*, tells me, that in a crew of 150, officers and men included, he has been called to treat 42 cases of venereal disease between the 8th of November, 1870, and the 20th of March, 1871, a period of 132 days—24 cases of venereal ulcer and 18 cases of gonorrhoea.

Dr. Drew, of H. M. S. *Hornet*, in a crew of 71, officers and men included, encountered only 5 cases of venereal disease between the 15th of December, 1870, and 20th of March, 1871, a period of 95 days:—2 of these were cases of syphilis and 3 of gonorrhoea.\*

In direct opposition, however, to the conclusions which such information as the foregoing suggests, I have received a statement of opinion from another surgeon whose observations have extended during the past year over a much larger body of men than those just noticed. This gentleman informs me that he has never before seen venereal disease so rapidly extending, or so virulent among the crews of any of the vessels in which he has served on other stations as at Shanghai; and this opinion he founds upon considerable experience in various parts of the world. I have myself seen the statistics which he has collected, and must acknowledge that they go far to support the statements of those who place Shanghai in the list of places especially dangerous for shore-going sailors. I am at liberty to state that out of 320 men who had variously apportioned liberty on shore during a period of 40 days, no less than 83 suffered subsequently from venereal affections, while in more than one-half of the cases, the severer forms of these were manifested. †

The testimony of Dr. Eberbach, of H. I. R. M. S. "*Gornostai*," is also condemnatory of the port. Dr. Eberbach states that out of 60 men who had shore-going leave between the 3rd of October and 23rd of November, 1870—51 days—17 suffered subsequently from venereal disease. Of these, 8 were cases of gonorrhoea, 7 of indurated—infected—sores, and 2 of gonorrhoea and venereal ulcers combined; in 2 cases constitutional symptoms in the form of a general skin eruption had appeared within two months from the period of infection and up to the date of Dr. Eberbach's communication with me in January, 1871. Dr. Eberbach gives it as his opinion, founded on a special study and somewhat extended experience of such complaints, that the syphilitic virus in Shanghai is of a peculiarly

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\* Compare this statement with that given by the Surgeon of the *Dwarf*.

† Leave to publish the name of this vessel was withheld by the commander.



virulent kind, an opinion, I presume, founded upon the character of the primary sores.\*

The following table places these figures more clearly before the reader.

Name of Vessel.	No. of men composing the crew, or obtaining shore leave	Period and duration of exposure.	No. of cases of disease resulting.
Dwarf .....	71	March 15th to June 20th 1870—97 days.	5
Zebra.....	177	July 4th to Novr. 1st 1870—120 days.	13
Gornastai.....	60	Oct. 3rd to Novr. 23rd 1870—51 days.	17
.....	320	1870—40 days.	83
Monocaey .....	150	Nov. 8th 1870 to 20th March 1871—132 days.....	42
Hornet.....	X71	Dec. 15th 1870 to 20th March 1871—95 days.....	5

I have before me the British Navy Health Reports for 1866 and 1867.† Navy Health Reports. They contain no special statistical statement with regard to Shanghai. Of the China station generally the report for 1866 records a reduction in the ratio of cases of venereal disease as compared with the previous year. Acting Surgeon, R. Purves, in remarks which apply to a period embraced between October 1866 and May 1867, says:—"Shanghai is still a fertile "source of infection, and yet restrictive measures might be adopted with "great advantage in all the foreign 'concessions.'" The report for 1867 mentions a further trifling reduction on the China station in the ratio of cases of venereal disease during the year as compared with 1866, adding 'that the decrease in the invaliding and death ratio was considerable.' Mr. Purves' remarks with regard to Shanghai are again quoted in this report.

The masters of the merchant vessels visiting the port are pretty un- Merchant vesanimous as to the unusual prevalence of venereal disease in Shanghai, dreading its effect upon their men. I have also heard from men belonging

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\* In both these last cases further shore-going leave was denied to the sailors while the vessels remained at Shanghai.

† The last of these reports was only ordered to be printed in April, 1869. Another has, I understand, since been published, but I have not yet been able to obtain it.

to this class repeated statements as to the unusual severity of these disorders when contracted in Shanghai, but such must not be taken for more than they are really worth; I do not myself believe that they are supported by fact.

The excessive prevalence of venereal disease among the natives is a fact to which all who have seen much of the work done in the Shanghai Chinese Hospitals will bear testimony. Dr. James Henderson in his native hospital report for 1863, says:—"Venereal diseases of all kinds have been unusually common both among men and women. It is no uncommon thing for a woman to come in charge of six, eight, or ten others suffering from the disease." Again in 1864, he writes:—"All possible varieties of venereal disease have presented themselves during the year, and at all stages of the complaint." In 1868, no fewer than 880 cases of venereal disease were treated among the out-patients at the Chinese Hospital attached to the London Mission, and 640 of these are recorded as cases of syphilis. In 1869, at the same institution, 426 cases are noted among the out-patients, 381 of which are referred to as cases of syphilis. These numbers with few exceptions, represent only the severer forms of these diseases, for, as may be readily supposed, the native doctors have considerable success in the treatment of complaints, which, in their less formidable manifestations, tend so decidedly to spontaneous cure. It is painful to note the large number of apparently respectable married women who present themselves at our native hospitals suffering from Syphilis.

Before concluding, I may be permitted to direct attention to a few of the considerations suggested by the facts detailed in these pages; I shall do so very briefly as the limits which I originally proposed to myself, for this report have been already far exceeded.

If it be considered that the medical evidence adduced fails to prove the *excessive* prevalence of venereal diseases among foreigners residing in, or visiting Shanghai, it still cannot be denied that enough has been brought forward to shew that these are sufficiently widely spread to demand the serious consideration of the sanitary guardians of the settlement. Protection against Fever, Dysentery, and Small-Pox, is actively sought for in the removal of nuisances, by improvements in drainage and by vaccination; but such measures provide no defence against venereal disease, and this, so far at least as the number of cases is concerned, is shewn to be certainly not less worthy of attention.



The excessive prevalence of venereal disease among the natives who surround us is an incontestable fact, conveying a special caution to medical men as to the selection of native wet nurses for the infants of foreigners, and in the performance of vaccination among the Chinese, as to the careful choosing of lymph.

The large number of brothels existing within foreign limits is in the highest degree objectionable, as affecting the good name of the settlement, and largely contributing to the dirt and overcrowding which is so evident and so greatly to be deplored in the Chinese quarters. By far the greater number exist for the use of natives only, and such ought to find no place in the foreign settlement. It is a significant fact that these houses are scarcely to be seen within the walls of the native city. It were easy to enlarge upon the vileness of a trade which consists in the buying and selling of women and children for the purposes of prostitution; I content myself here with observing that the number of brothels to be supplied, must of necessity influence the developement of this disgraceful traffic. The proper regulation of this is, however, a task attended with peculiar difficulty, as necessitating interference with valuable property, over which a body, constituted like the Municipal Council of Shanghai, possesses little or no control, and from the taxation of which no inconsiderable proportion of their revenue is derived; it will depend, I imagine, for many years to come upon the attitude assumed individually by the land-renters.

With regard to schemes for government supervision, I would submit the following:—

The foundation of a properly appointed Lock Hospital should be the first step undertaken.

So far as the women inhabiting the native brothels frequented by foreigners are concerned, no insurmountable difficulties exist. These women will readily submit to a certain amount of direct taxation, to which the native officials in the illegal levying of 'black mail,' have long accustomed them. The inauguration of a scheme with this limitation involves at present the supervision of 62 houses and 223 women, for the 'mixed' brothels must be included if we hope to make any sensible impression on disease. The women living in the houses exclusively frequented by natives, will certainly refuse to submit to foreign medical inspection; their number (1,409) when put in comparison with the foreign medical and police staff which we could at present command, is of itself sufficient to shew the impossibility of effecting anything in this direction. The native mistresses of foreigners, with

the washerwomen and needlewomen, will probably long remain feebly controlled sources of danger to the community. Want of the necessary authority may at present prevent satisfactory proceedings in the case of foreign prostitutes.

It cannot be denied that the initiation of an efficient supervision scheme may result in the closing of some of the native brothels and the emigration of the women; but surely this is a loss which all the right thinking members of our community will regard as a very decided gain to Shanghai. Unfortunately the state of matters in Hongkong and Japan where schemes of government supervision are in active operation, do not encourage us to hope that such a clearance is likely to be at all permanent. The native prostitutes in Hongkong are, I believe now, fully accustomed to the visits of the Inspector, and would, without doubt, only too readily supply the place of their less experienced country-women in Shanghai.

Compulsory periodical examination of the native women and enforced detention in hospital of all found suffering from venereal disease, are, in my opinion, the only measures the adoption of which is likely to yield any notably good result. In saying this, I merely express the conclusion arrived at in England by the Parliamentary Commission of 1864; \* but I think that in Shanghai in legislating for native prostitutes, we have peculiarly strong reasons for dismissing as utterly insufficient all measures which fall short of this arbitrary exercise of power; for, whereas in England some slight dependance can be placed upon the women themselves—their habits of personal cleanliness and just appreciation of the nature of venereal disorders—and some confidence can be felt in the good advice which prostitutes may receive from medical men elsewhere than in the regularly appointed Lock Hospitals; here in Shanghai it is impossible to rely in the slightest degree either on the conduct of the native women or upon the practice of the native physicians.

And now the task which I have undertaken is completed. In placing the result of my labors in the hands of those upon whom the care of such matters devolves, I am satisfied to know, that the whole question will meet with the full consideration which it demands, and that future deliberations may now be conducted upon a secure basis of fact.

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\* The report of the committee was presented to both Houses in 1868.